without proper identification and were given through middlemen; and

(b) if so, when Government first came to know of such malpractices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) The Public Sector Banks organise credit camps as part of their overall measures to accelerate credit assistance to weaker sections of the society. The banks observe the guidelines/Instructions issued by the Reserve Bank of India from time to time regarding eligibility criteria, project appraisal and post sanction supervision as also recovery procedure etc, for all loans given by them whether at credit camps or otherwise. Any diversion from lending guidelines of Reserve Bank of India/ Government by banks is looked into at appropriate levels.

Setting up of export promotion zone at Visakhapatnam

249. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is enormous delay in setting up of the Export promotion zone at Visakhapatnam;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) by when the work on the project is likely to start; and

(d) whether any time-frame has been contemplated for the completion of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) to (d) Government have agreed in principle to the location of a possible Export processing Zone at Visakhapatnam. The modalities of implementing the possibility have to be worked out having regard to the relevant techno economic considerations. It is not possible to indicate a time limit in this regard at this stage.

Projects from Andhra Pradesh pending clearance

250. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of projects cleared during the years 1987-88 and 1988-89 from forest and environment angles which were received from Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the number of such projects that are still pending clearance;

(c) whether there is a time-frame for the clearance of these projects; and

(d) whether it is a fact that there is a cost escalation on the projects because of the non-clearance of the projects?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) the number of projects of Andhra Pradesh cleared from Environmental and Forestry angles during 1987-88 and 1988-89 are as under:

1987-88	8
1988-89	22

(b) 20 cases of Andhra Pradesh are pending.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir

Forest Land

251. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what was the percentage of forests in the total land area in India at the

beginning of the Sixth plan period and at the beginning of the seventh plan period;

(b) what is the percentage of forests to the total land area at the end of 1988;

(c) what improvement has been registered in this connection with the emphasis which has been laid on increasing the forest land; and

(d) how does this compare with the targeted percentage of forest land?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) the percentages of recorded forest area to total land area in the country at the beginning of Sixth Five Year Plan (1980-81) and at the beginning of Seventh Five Year Plan (1985-86) were 22.83% and 22.90% respectively.

(b) No survey has been carried out regarding forest area at the end of 1988.

(c) The following improvements are noticed as a result of forest conservation measures and implementation of afforestation schemes in the country:

(i) The average annual rate of diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes has come down from 1.5 lakh hectares before 1980 to 15,000 hectares during the period 1980-1988.

(ii) Annual rate of afforestation has gone up from 1.45 million hectares in 1985-1986 to about 2 million hectares in 1988-89.

(d) The targeted percentage of forest area is 33.33% of total land area in the country, whereas the percentage of recorded forest area is 22.90%.

Effect of revision of electoral rolls

252. SHRI M. VINCENT: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a necessity for consequential delination of (i) the number of Assembly seats (ii) the limits and area of the constituencies and (iii) the number of Parliament seats as a consequence of the revision of voters' list with 18 years of age as the eligibility limit; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI HANS RAJ BHARDWAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Cases of smuggling detected by the Customs authorities

253. SHRI M. VINCENT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of cases which have come to the notice of the Customs authorities involving clandestine imports or deemed to be smuggled in the past three years amounting to Rs. 1 crore and above Rs.1 crore in each case;

(b) how many of these cases were prosecuted and with what results; and

(c) how many of these cases have been dropped or withdrawn till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) Available reports indicate that 103 cases (figure provisional) of smuggling involving seizure of goods of Rs. one crore and above had been booked by the Customs authorities during the past three years.

(b) and (c) Statistics of prosecution in respect of only those cases involving seizure of goods of more than Rs. one crore are not maintained separately. However, number of persons arrested, number of persons prosecuted, number of persons convicted and number